

Isaiah 58 is a reply to the prayers of God's people. In the first times, God's people were the people of Israel only.

But now, just as Boaz spread his cloth over Ruth on the threshing floor, Now, through Jesus Christ, God has spread out his salvation to the Gentiles who believe in Jesus Christ. Now, God's people include the born-again Christians.

Isaiah 58:2 shows you that the people are seriously longing for God. It says that:

1. They seek him daily
2. They delight to know God's ways
3. They ask for God's righteous judgements.

All these things are righteous desires. They are all things that please the LORD.

Because they want these things, they have decided to fast. The same way, I desired for God to give me the truth because our church leaders always have contradicting opinions. So, I decided to fast for a total of 20days over a period of 5 weeks.

Why are the people desiring righteous things?

This is the work of the Holy Spirit. For the bible says these things about the Holy Spirit:

1. He convicts the world of sin and righteousness
2. He is our helper and comforter

We know that when we got born-again, we were at our worst. But, Holy Spirit convicted us of our sins and made us eager for righteousness, and helped us overcome judgement. At this point God, the creator, began 'the good work' in us. Since then, the Holy Spirit has been continuing this good work in us and will 100% complete this work.

As the Holy Spirit is working in the Christian, he desires to live righteously, even though he does not really understand what righteousness means. But, when bible speaks of righteousness, he just wants to get it!

## Isaiah 58

So, because of the work of the Holy Spirit in us, we want to be perfected into the image of Jesus. It is a righteous thing for a Christian or any godly man to live in peace and have all he needs.

So, God has looked at his people's hearts and found them right with him. Just as He said that David was a man after his own heart.

God wants to bless his people. But, it is not a righteous thing for a mean person to be blessed by God. It is an evil thing to bless people who don't care about those who are suffering.

So, Jesus said of a parable of a servant who was forgiven of a great debt but went and demanded another servant to pay him! He even squeezed his throat! It is an abomination to bless such a person!

And, what we previously thought we need to do to be blessed by God, even if we do it, it cannot cover the hatred in our hearts or our meanness. You can do some other things that can make you be blessed like: obeying your parents, tithe, declarations and respecting the Sabbath.

However, when God looks at you oppressing the poor and laughing at them, turning your back on them and saying you're turning to God... God cannot be happy!

However, because God already saw that your heart is right with him, instead of avoiding you or destroying you, God has chosen to show you the right way. "If you love me, you will obey my commandments"- love.

If you are seeking for righteousness, God says this is the way to find it:

1. Save the innocent
2. Do not oppress others
3. Save those who are in bondages like depression
4. Be a savior
5. Feed the hungry
6. Shelter people and clothe them
7. Help your family

Note: These things are not the meaning of righteousness, but God says you can follow these to get to righteousness.

After you have done these things, God's blessings will explode in your life. These blessings include:

1. Your light shall break forth like the morning
2. Healing will be all around you
3. Your righteousness (Jesus Christ) shall go before you
4. The glory of the LORD shall be your reward
5. When you pray, God will answer
6. When you cry, God will appear
7. If you work hard to save others, if you stop cursing, if you only speak God's word, if you help others when you don't feel like it, and cause those who are suffering to be happy:
  - a. Your misery will be removed and replaced with pure goodness.
  - b. You will not have any darkness at all.
8. The LORD shall guide you continually
9. The LORD will satisfy you with food even in a desert.
10. You will be very healthy
11. You will be like a well-watered garden (Not a tree. But a garden. Full of different types of fruits, flowers and vegetables). Plus, you will have your own river.
12. Your people will be very important people because they'll do what others failed to do,

Finally, Isaiah 58 reminds us about the blessing of observing the Sabbath. Note that the blessings for helping the poor cover 5 verses while the blessing for the sabbath covers only 1 verse.